

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Poland/Germany (Western Zones)/
East Asia/Sweden

SUBJECT Czechoslovak Imports, Exports, and Shipping

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1. In payment for Czechoslovak war materiel, Chinese iron ore is being shipped from Hamburg on the Elbe to Czechoslovakia. The ore is powdery, of poor quality, and turns muddy during the ocean trip, causing difficulty in trans-loading to Czech river barges.
2. Czechoslovak exports to Communist China are being shipped through Gdynia or Danzig (Gdansk) by sea and also through the USSR by train.
3. The former Polish, now Czechoslovak 5,000 ton ship which has been renamed the REPUBLIKA and three other ships newly purchased by Czechoslovakia are destined for use in the Czech trade with Communist China. The REPUBLIKA is still in the Gdynia harbor. The Czechs are having difficulty in recruiting a politically reliable crew.
4. Czechoslovakia is receiving Korean tungsten through Polish ports.
5. On 15 February 1952, a ship flying the Japanese flag unloaded 5,000 tons of Indian iron ore into warehouse 41 of the Czechoslovak Elbe Navigation Company (CPSEL)* for later barge shipment to Czechoslovakia.
6. Because the Czechs anticipated a low winter water level on the Elbe, the Czechoslovak transport plan disregarded utilization of barges for the winter. Although the Elbe actually remained open, the inelastic plan necessitated rail transport from Hamburg through West Germany during the winter of 1951-52.
7. Since the middle of 1951, Swedish iron ore for Czechoslovakia has no longer been shipped through Hamburg, but has been shipped through Polish ports.

* Comment: Apparently in Hamburg.

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